



NEWS RELEASE

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HUDGENS: FATAL BRYAN COUNTY FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

Atlanta -- Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens said today that an early morning fatal fire in Bryan County appears to be accidental.

Killed in the fire were, Gavin Dale Newman, 3, and his brother, Randal Newman, III, 4. The other residents of the home, Crystal Beasley, 23, Randal Newman, Jr., 33, and Aden Wells, 6, all suffered heavy smoke inhalation and burns. They were flown to Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

The manufactured home located at 852 Pine Needle Road, Ellabell Ga., was destroyed. The fire call came in around 4 a.m.

The investigation revealed the fire originated in the living room area of the home, and was caused by an electrical space heater being placed too close to combustible materials. The home did not have a smoke alarm.

Commissioner Hudgens said Fire Investigators from his office worked the investigation with the Bryan County Sheriff's Office and the Bryan County Fire Department.

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